



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

March 5, 2020

Dear Early Care and Education Professional,

The Office for Children is working in collaboration with the Fairfax County Health Department and other Health and Human Services agencies to ensure accurate and helpful information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is provided to both child care providers and families.

Although there are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Fairfax County, as child care providers we need to continue to be diligent in providing a healthy environment for children and staff. You are already taking the most important steps to prevent the spread of any illness by following the standard health procedures in place at your center or family child care home.

As with any day your program is open, staff should conduct a Daily Health Observation of each child as they arrive and notice how they look, feel and act. This will help you notice any changes in symptoms or behaviors that may occur throughout the day. If a child appears to exhibit symptoms of illness, parents should be notified and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible. While waiting to be picked up, the child should be provided a comfortable place to rest, under sight and sound supervision but away from other children in care.

Environmental cleaning is second nature to providers, so your program is likely a step ahead! As you continue your daily cleaning routine, please ensure that all frequently touched surfaces are sanitized, including tables, toys, and rest mats, with a bleach solution or commercial chemical disinfectant.

Below are a few additional reminders to help protect both the children in your care, and program staff:

- Children and staff should wash their hands often, including when they arrive at the program, and especially before eating, and after coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom. Children and staff should also avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- Children should be reminded of proper coughing and sneezing techniques to prevent transmission of germs. The video below provides additional information on these important strategies.
- In addition, it's a good time to ask parents to review their child's file to be sure their contact information and emergency pick-up contact information is correct and up to date.

Fairfax County



Office for Children

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- To help stop the spread of all germs, families should be encouraged to monitor their child for symptoms of illness and keep children home when they are sick.

For more information on the Coronavirus, please visit the Health Department's coronavirus webpage at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novel-coronavirus) and watch this helpful five-minute video message at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4fsQ2DL2bM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4fsQ2DL2bM) from Fairfax County Health Director Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu.

Thank you for all you do to care for Fairfax County's children.

Best regards,

  
Anne-Marie D. Twohie  
Director, Fairfax County Office for Children